

Brazil govt: Homicide rate dips after gun control

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BRASILIA, Brazil—A new study suggests the number of homicides in Brazil has fallen since the passage of a law restricting gun ownership.

The study by the government's Institute of Applied Economic Research says the homicide rate fell to 20 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2010 from 22 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2003, when the law was passed.

In 1980, Brazilians possessed an average of 10 firearms per 100,000 inhabitants. Widespread fears that the police weren't properly protecting the public helped push the country's gun ownership rate up to 17.5 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2003. The study says that number has stabilized since the passage of the Disarmament Statute.

In 1980, Brazil's homicide rate stood at an average of 10 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants.